



Congressman

John M. McHugh

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*House Committee on Government Reform
Subcommittee on the Postal Service*

**McHUGH SUBCOMMITTEE TO HEAR FROM CLINTON ADMINISTRATION,
POSTAL COMPETITORS & CUSTOMERS ON POSTAL MODERNIZATION ACT**

WASHINGTON -- Rep. John M. McHugh (R-NY) Chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Postal Service, will hold a hearing to consider comprehensive postal modernization legislation on Thursday, March 4. The hearing will begin at 1 p.m. in Room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

The bill under consideration, H.R. 22, introduced by Chairman McHugh and cosponsored by Government- Reform Committee Chairman Dan Burton (R-IN) is intended to modernize the nearly 30-year-old postal laws to allow the Postal Service to address challenges facing it in a changing communications environment. H.R. 22 would give the Postal Service greater freedom to compete while establishing new rules to ensure fair competition and protect the public interest.

The hearing will be the second of two hearings held this year on H.R. 22. Testimony will be presented by four panels made up of stakeholders in the postal modernization debate. In addition to the testimony presented during the hearing, a number of organizations have been invited to submit statements for the hearing record. Witnesses scheduled to appear include:

Panel 1: Donna E. Patterson, Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the Antitrust Division, Department of Justice; and Lewis A. Sachs, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Government Financial Policy, Department of Treasury

Panel 2: Smith, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, FDX Corporation; and James P. Kelly, President and Chief Executive Officer, United Parcel Service

Panel 3: Jerry Cerasale, Senior Vice-President of Government Affairs, Direct Marketing Association, Inc. (testifying on behalf of the Mailers Coalition for Postal Reform); Neal Denton, Executive Director, Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers; and Robert "Kam" Kamerschen, Saturation Mailers Coalition

Panel 4: John T. Estes, Executive Director, Main Street Coalition; John F. Sturm, Newspaper Association of America; Lee Cassidy, National Federation of Nonprofits; Joe Roos, The Association Church Press; David Stover, The Greeting Card Association; Guy Wendler, American Business Press; Kenneth B. Allen, National Newspaper Association; and Charmaine Fennie, Chairperson, Coalition Against Unfair USPS Competition

"The goal of H.R. 22 is two-fold: to provide the Postal Service greater freedom to compete in order to successfully carry out its universal service mission, while at the same time, establishing new rules to ensure fair competition and protect the public interest," said Rep. McHugh.

"Thursday's hearing continues our four-year journey to develop and consider postal modernization legislation with input from cabinet departments and a variety of competitors and customers of the Postal Service," Rep. McHugh said. "I look forward to a full, frank, and fair discussion with all four panels of witnesses."

H.R. 22 was originally introduced in June 1996 in the 104th Congress after a year and a half of oversight hearings. Five additional legislative hearings were held, and a detailed plan to revise H.R. 22 was announced in December 1997. After taking into account additional extensive public comments on this plan, the Subcommittee voted in a bipartisan manner to approve the bill on September 24, 1998. The 105th Congress was unable to take further action before it adjourned.

A copy of H.R. 22 and explanatory materials can be obtained from Rep. McHugh's Subcommittee website (<http://www.house.gov/reform/postal/hearings/hr22.htm>).

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